

REMARKS

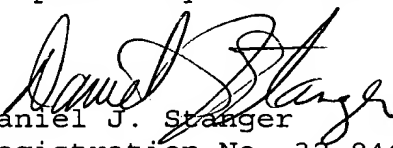
The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections, in consideration of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 4-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, Claims 2-3 are pending.

Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bass et al., U.S. 6,272,134 (Bass), in view of Ogawa et al., U.S. Patent Publication Application Serial No. 2002/0075872A1, (Ogawa). Without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, the Applicants have canceled Claims 1 and 4-6 and rewritten Claim 2 in independent form, to expedite allowance of the application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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